



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ALBANIA

FACT SHEET

Anti-Trafficking



During a monthly visit of workers from the Transnational Action against Child Trafficking program, a boy in an Elbasan elementary school reads through a brochure educating children about the dangers of trafficking.

PROJECTS

- The Albanian Initiative: Coordinated Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) (Sept. 2003-Sept. 2006)
- Transnational Action Against Child Trafficking (TACT) (May 2003-May 2006)

CURRENT SITUATION

Albania is classified as a source country primarily for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation to Italy and Greece, and on to other EU countries, such as Belgium, France, England, the Netherlands, etc. In the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) 2005 Report, Albania was categorized as a Tier 2 country for a fourth year, a country meeting minimum standards/making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with the standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000. Initially a Tier 3 country, Albania's successful movement to Tier 2 was a direct result of the Albanian Government's implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings created in 2001. The Government of Albania (GOA) has drafted an extended national strategy for 2005-2007, and recently adopted a National Strategy Against Child Trafficking.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

USAID/Albania's anti-trafficking program is one of the largest and most comprehensive bilateral programs in the Agency. Currently, our program has two primary activities: The Albanian Initiative: Coordinated Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) and the Transnational Action against Child-Trafficking (TACT).

PROGRAM FOCUS

- Coordinating (on national, district and local levels) the GOA, civil society, and international stakeholders to improve programs that discourage trafficking, assist and reintegrate the victims, and reduce re-trafficking;
- Strengthening the quality and geographic spread of prevention programs and victim assistance and reintegration services through the provision of grants;
- Consolidating data collection and analysis to increase the exchange of information and consensus building, while monitoring the development of Albania's trafficking prevention and assistance/reintegration programs

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Flip-chart postings around the workshop room document the discussion between Greek street workers and their Albanian counterparts. The discussion will form the basis for a report detailing the best practices and future ways of transnational collaboration.

SUCCESSES

- Tdh took a strong stand against child trafficking in the international community, through presentations highlighting the potential risk for increased trafficking of children to Greece during the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. In addition, Tdh has presented their concerns and current anti-trafficking activities at Stability Pact Meetings on Child Trafficking held in Tirana, Belgrade, and Vienna, as well as at three smaller international conferences against child trafficking held in Athens, Rome, and Thessalonica respectively;
- USAID was active in increasing advocacy and awareness around the “Olympic Games Emergency” with Tdh directly assisting the Government of Albania’s Working Group Against Child Trafficking to draft a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with Greece. Discussions between the two countries were held at the highest level and ongoing drafts of the memorandum have been shared between Albanian and Greek Ministries;
- Practical cooperation between Albanian social workers from Tdh and its Greek NGO counterpart Arsis has been enhanced. A transnational workshop was held for this purpose gathering stakeholders from both countries to share and document best practices in identifying, assisting and facilitating durable solutions for victims. This workshop will result in the production of best practices manual promoting transnational cooperation to be distributed to anti-trafficking stakeholders;
- Within the framework of the inter-NGO coalition against child trafficking, BKTF, Tdh has been involved in the restructuring of the National Strategy concerning child trafficking. BKTF is currently in the process of revising the Strategy’s practical implementation plan;
- By September 2005 the CAAHT project will have awarded grants supporting anti-trafficking activities in every district in Albania;
- The CAAHT project continues to facilitate the ongoing coordination of local actors through Regional Cluster Group (RCG) meetings held in Northern, Southern, Central and Eastern cities of the country. The positive outcomes of the RCG meetings have prompted participants to encourage CAAHT to extend this activity to the prefecture level in the last year of the project’s implementation. Prefecture based working groups will broaden the involvement of civil society and local government in the meetings and provide them with the government leadership and buy-in needed for ongoing sustainability of their community’s anti-trafficking efforts.

Contact Information:
USAID/Albania
Tel: + 355 4 241 999
<http://albania.usaid.gov>